

IV. Amendment to the Abstract

*On page 34, lines 5-10 please delete the paragraph and insert the following replacement paragraph.*

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Culturally modified lactic acid bacterial cells containing a porphyrin compound and their use in a novel method of reducing the oxygen content in a food and feed product or starting material is provided and means of improving the shelf life and/or quality of such products by using the culturally modified bacterial cells, such as culturally modified species including *Lactococcus* spp. and *Lactobacillus* spp. Such culturally modified cells may include certain NADH oxidases, such as certain non-haeme flavoproteins, and cytochrome d and they are useful in manufacturing of a food and a feed product and for the manufacturing of metabolites produced by modified cells.

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